

EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS'

10¢

DELL

No. 375

# JOHN CARTER OF MARS





MEET THE

# Planet People



*John Carter*  
THE DASHING ADVENTURER  
FROM THE PLANET EARTH



*Dejah Thoris*  
THE PRINCESS  
OF MARS WHO  
LOVES THE  
EARTH MAN



*Kantos Kan*  
THE MARTIAN NOBLE  
WHO BEFRIENDS  
JOHN CARTER



*Than Kosis*  
THE TYRANT OF  
ZODANGA AND  
ENEMY OF THE  
MAN FROM EARTH



*Sab Than*  
SON OF  
THAN KOSIS, WHO  
LOVES DEJAH THORIS



*Keeper* OF THE PUMPS  
WHICH RENDER THE  
MARTIAN AIR BREATHABLE



**JOHN  
CARTER**

**of MARS**

# The Prisoner of the Tharks

RANGING FAR BEYOND THE AMERICAN LINES ON A RECONNAISSANCE MISSION, CAPTAIN JOHN CARTER SUDDENLY IS CAUGHT BY ENEMY FIRE...

OWW— J-JOHN, I'M HIT— THERE'S A CAVE A HUNDRED YARDS BACK— HEAD FOR IT!

TOM — I'M NOT LETTING THEM CAPTURE YOU! YOU'RE GOING BACK WITH ME!



HE'S DEAD—I'VE GOT TO MAKE THAT CAVE FAST OR THEY'LL PICK ME OFF!



I CAN HOLD THEM OFF FROM HERE TILL THE COMPANY MOVES UP— FUNNY, THERE'S A STRANGE VAPOR IN HERE— MAKES ME FEEL DIZZY— WEAK!



CAN'T REACH MY CARBINE! —THERE THEY ARE! THEY MUST SEE ME! BUT I—I'M TOO WEAK TO FIGHT—



**BUT SUDDENLY...**

THEY'RE RUNNING AWAY! SOMETHING **TERRIFIED** THEM! SOMETHING THEY SAW BEHIND ME IN THE CAVE, BUT I CAN'T EVEN TURN MY HEAD TO LOOK BACK— THE VAPORS ARE GETTING ME!





FOR HOURS HE LIES PARALYZED ON THE FLOOR OF THE STRANGE CAVE, THEN SUDDENLY, SOMETHING SNAPS INSIDE HIM...

MY OWN BODY!  
IT'S LYING THERE  
ON THE GROUND—  
THIS MUST BE DEATH!



NO! I CAN STILL MOVE!  
I'M BREATHING! MY  
HEART BEATS! BUT I  
CAN'T LOOK BACK—  
I'M PULLED FORWARD!



MOVING TO THE CAVE'S ENTRANCE, JOHN CARTER GAZES SKYWARD, HYPNOTIZED BY ONE BECKONING RED STAR...

MARS! THE GOD OF  
WAR! EVER SINCE I'VE  
BEEN A SOLDIER, MARS  
HAS FASCINATED ME!



SPELLBOUND BY THE FLAMING PLANET, HE STRETCHES HIS ARMS TOWARD IT...

I-I FEEL DRAWN TO MARS!  
LURED ACROSS THE GREAT VOID  
—PULLED LIKE A STEEL FILING  
TO A MAGNET! I CAN'T RESIST  
ITS CALL!



HIS EYES CLOSE...IN AN INSTANT OF EXTREME COLD AND DARKNESS, HE FEELS HIMSELF DRAWN, WITH THE SUDDENNESS OF THOUGHT, ACROSS THE IMMENSITY OF SPACE, THEN...

I'M OUT OF THE CAVE! BUT  
THE COUNTRYSIDE — IT'S  
DESOLATE! NOTHING BUT  
STRANGE MOSS FOR MILES!  
IT LOOKS *UNEARTHLY*!



THE SUN! IT'S GROWN  
*SMALLER* AND *DIMMER*!  
THERE ARE TWO MOONS  
IN THE SKY — I'M ON  
MARS!





AND AS THE EARTHMAN TAKES HIS FIRST STEPS FORWARD...

NOW TO SEE IF THERE IS ANY LIFE ON MARS BESIDES —



TRICKED BY THE LESSER GRAVITY, HE SOMERSAULTS THIRTY FEET INTO THE AIR...

HEY!



IF ONLY THE EARTH PEOPLE COULD SEE *THESE* LEAPS! I'M LIGHT AS A FEATHER!



SOMETHING IS FLASHING IN THE DISTANCE — IT'S MOVING THIS WAY!



SETTLING BACK TO THE MARTIAN SOIL, JOHN CARTER AWAITS THE STRANGE ADVANCING HORDE... THEN, OVER THE RIM OF A SMALL HILL, FANTASTIC ARMED RIDERS SWOOP DOWN WITH THEIR WEIRD MOUNTS...

THERE IS LIFE ON MARS — BUT THESE GROTESQUE GREEN CREATURES WITH **FOUR ARMS** LOOK BRUTISH AND WARLIKE! I HOPE A PEACEFUL GESTURE WILL HALT THEIR CHARGE!



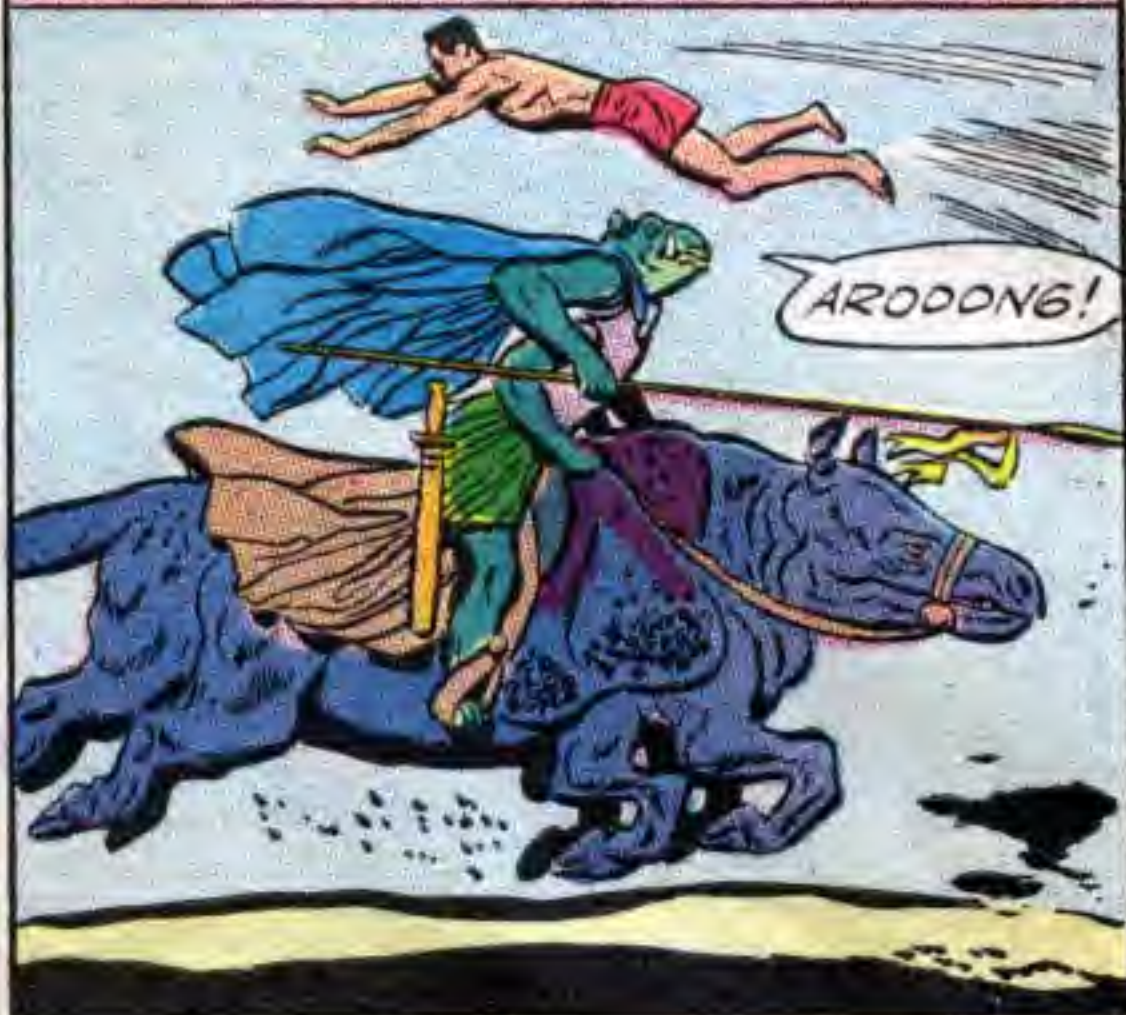


BUT A CHARGING RIDER ATTACKS...

THAT'S NO  
WAY TO TREAT  
VISITORS!



WITH A SUDDEN LEAP, JOHN CARTER  
VAULTS ABOVE THE LANCER...



THEY LOOK AMAZED AT MY  
JUMP—OF COURSE! THEY'RE  
THREE TIMES MY WEIGHT AND  
SIZE—THEY CAN'T  
LEAP LIKE I CAN!  
EARTH'S GRAVITY  
REQUIRED MY  
BODY TO BE  
THREE TIMES  
AS STRONG!



AS THE RIDER WHEELS ABOUT, CARTER  
LEAPS AGAIN...

AND MAYBE MY  
LEFT PACKS A  
TRIPLE WALLOP!



STUNNED BY THE BLOW, THE MARTIAN  
FALLS...

WHO'S  
NEXT?



THEY'RE BACKING AWAY—  
THEY RESPECT **STRENGTH!**  
THE GOD OF WAR WAS WELL  
NAMED, **MARS!**





**BUT ONE WARRIOR ADVANCES, TAKES THE ARMOR FROM THE FALLEN RIDER AND OFFERS IT TO JOHN CARTER...**

TO THE VICTOR BELONG THE SPOILS! RIBBONS MUST DENOTE A CHIEF! I WONDER IF THE RANK OF THE VANQUISHED IS MINE, TOO?



SOME ARMOR MAKER IS GOING TO HAVE A GOOD DAY'S WORK SHORTENING THIS STUFF FOR ME — HE WANTS ME TO MOUNT THAT ANIMAL AND FOLLOW! NOTHING MUCH ELSE I CAN DO!



**AT THE EDGE OF THE TABLELANDS, ENORMOUS RUINS OF AN ANCIENT CITY RISE... ITS BUILDINGS SEEM UNREPAIRED FOR AGES, AND THROUGH THE STREETS, CROWDS OF CURIOUS GREEN MONSTERS PRESS...**

THE DOORWAYS AND WINDOWS ARE MADE FOR SOMEONE OF MY HEIGHT, NOT THEIRS! MAYBE THERE'S ANOTHER RACE ON MARS BESIDES THESE CREATURES!



**LEFT IN A BARE ROOM, A FEMALE NAMED SOLA ATTENDS HIM...**

THANKS! THIS MARTIAN FOOD IS A BIT STICKY, BUT IT CERTAINLY BUILDS STRONG AND BIG BODIES!



**NIGHT COMES SWIFTLY ON MARS AND WITH IT A FREEZING COLD... SOLA COVERS JOHN CARTER WITH FUR ROBES BUT, AS ALL SLEEP, THE PRISONER STEALTHILY ARISES...**

AN EIGHT-LEGGED WATCHDOG! BUT IF HE'S ALL THAT'S BETWEEN ME AND FREEDOM, I'LL TRY TO GET BY HIM!





JOHN CARTER STALKS THROUGH THE ANCIENT STREETS, AS THE WATCHDOG, WOOLA, FOLLOWS CLOSELY...

THAT'S THE END OF THE CITY AHEAD! NO ONE'S AROUND — HERE GOES!



BUT SUDDENLY WOOLA CIRCLES AHEAD...

R.R.R.RR

BACK, DOGGIE! NICE DOGGIE, GO AWAY — IT'S NO USE! I'LL HAVE TO ELUDE HIM ANOTHER WAY!



I HOPE HE CAN'T JUMP!

GRRRR!



BUT, AS JOHN CARTER LANDS, WOOLA CHARGES ANGRILY...

I NEVER THOUGHT EIGHT STUMPY LEGS COULD GO SO FAST! I'D BETTER GET ABOVE HIM AGAIN!



HE MISSED ME! I'LL DUCK INSIDE THIS HOUSE — IT'S SAFER UP HERE!



OWW! — WHO'S PLAYING ROUGH?





YANKED INSIDE THE ROOM AND THROWN TO THE FLOOR, JOHN CARTER LOOKS UP AT HIS POWERFUL ASSAILANT...

GIANT WHITE APES!



UH... IF I COULD ONLY BUDGE HIS FOOT! I CAN'T DUCK THAT CLUB!



BUT WITH A SUDDEN ROAR, THE WATCHDOG HURLS THROUGH THE DOOR AND...

ARRRR!



EVEN ON MARS, MAN'S BEST FRIEND IS A DOG! BUT I THINK I'D BETTER GET CHUMMY WITH THE WORKING END OF THIS WAR CLUB!



SWINGING WITH WILD FURY, HE STRIKES!

NO MORE MONKEY BUSINESS FROM THAT APE!

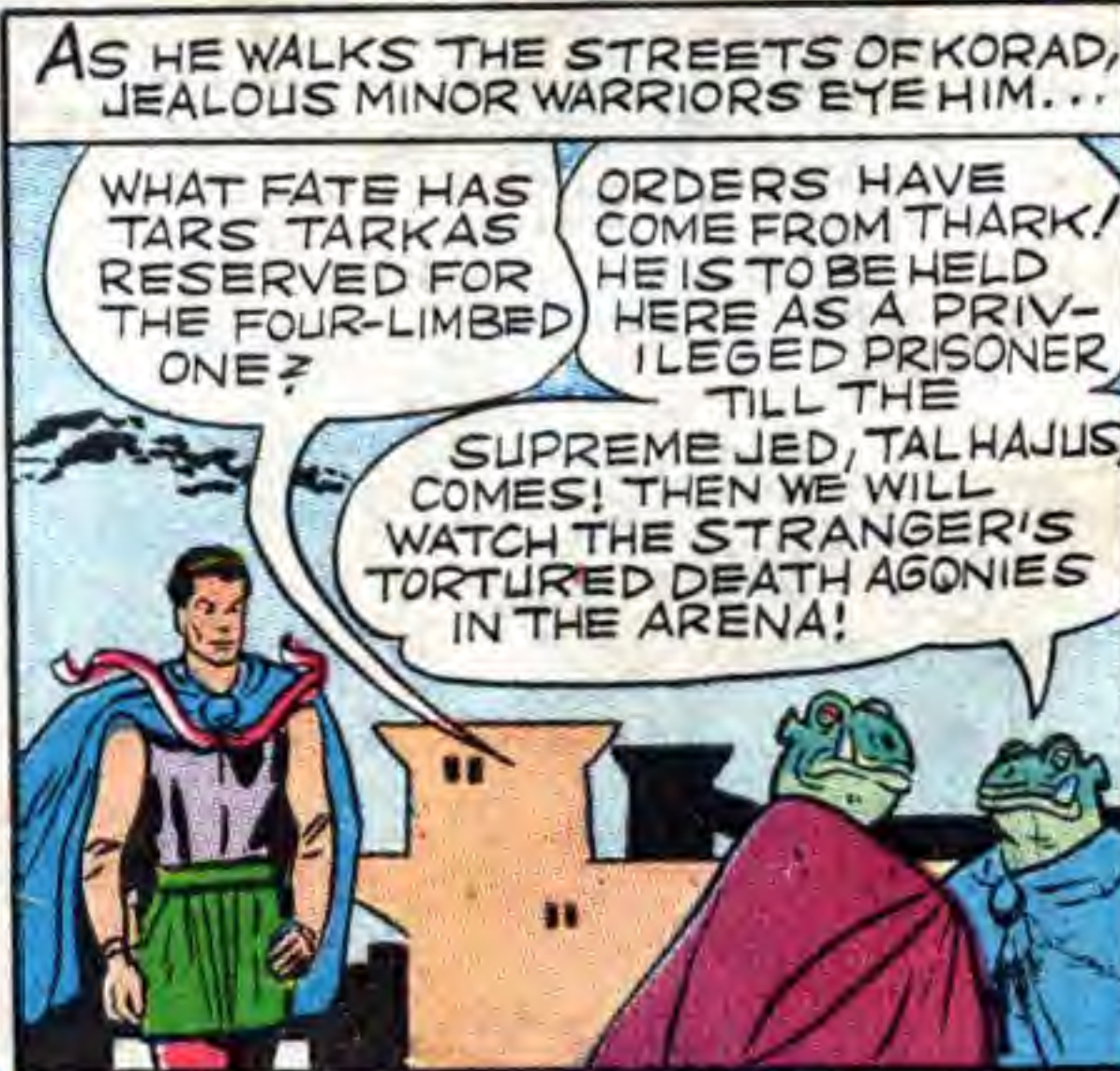
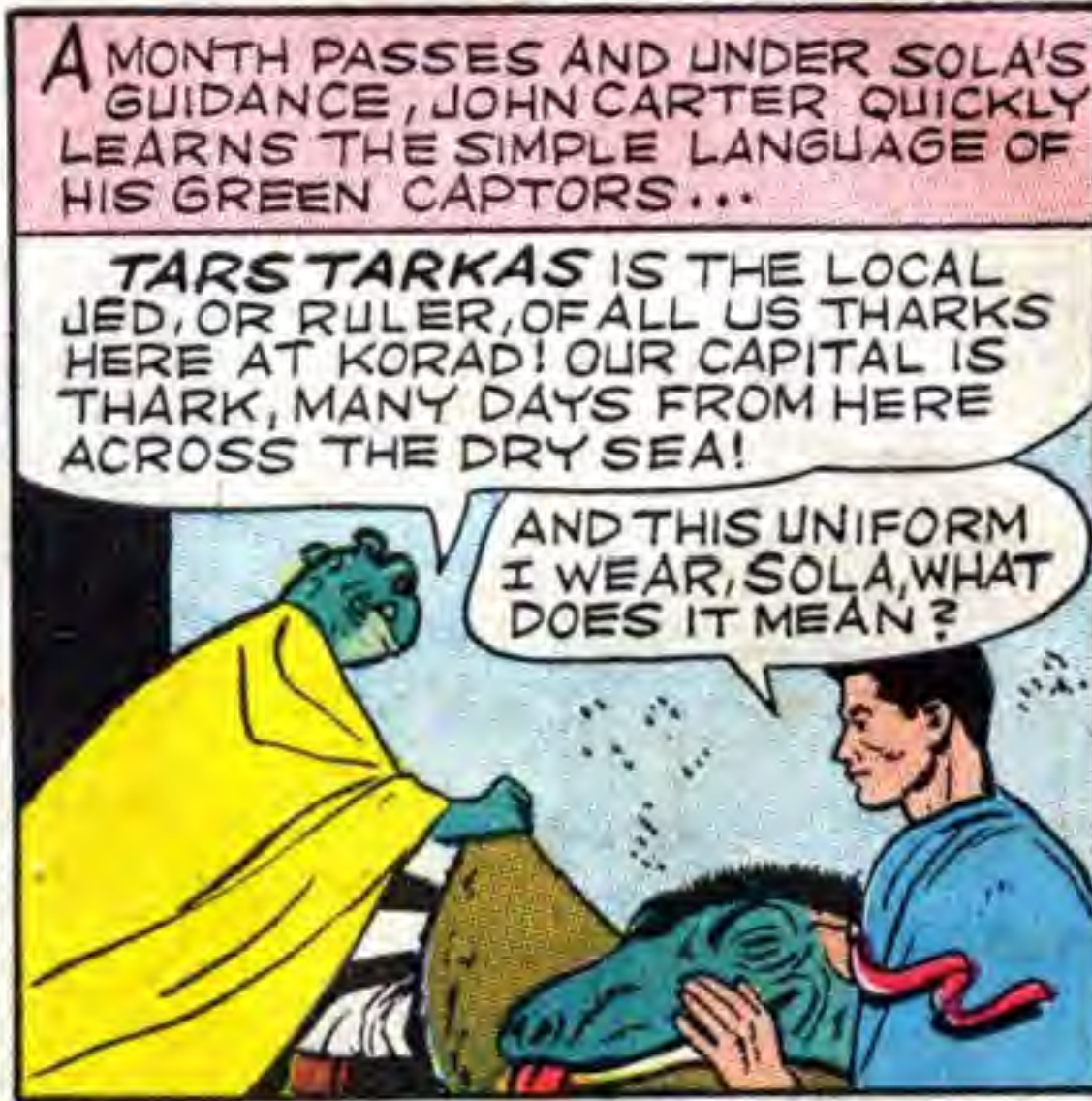


AND THE SECOND APE ATTACKS WOOLA!

THE DOG SAVED ME! NOW TO EVEN UP THE SCORE!











IT'S TIME TARS TARKAS AND I HAD A CHAT ABOUT MY FUTURE! I DON'T FEEL LIKE BEING THE LEADING ACTOR IN TAL HAJJUS'S TORTURE SHOW!



BUT SUDDENLY, THE WARRIORS AND THE CITIZENS ALL DASH FROM THE OPEN STREET...

WHAT'S WRONG? EVERYONE IS HEADING FOR BUILDINGS, THEIR EYES SEEM FILLED WITH FEAR!

THIS WAY, JOHN CARTER! QUICKLY! SOLA CALLS!



RUSHING TO THE ROOF TOP WITH SOLA, JOHN CARTER SEES STRANGE CRAFT FLOATING IN THE SKY ABOVE, AS TARS TARKAS REGARDS THEM ANGRILY AND TAKES COMMAND...

THE SHIPS HAVE COME FROM THE CITY OF HELIUM! — FIRE!

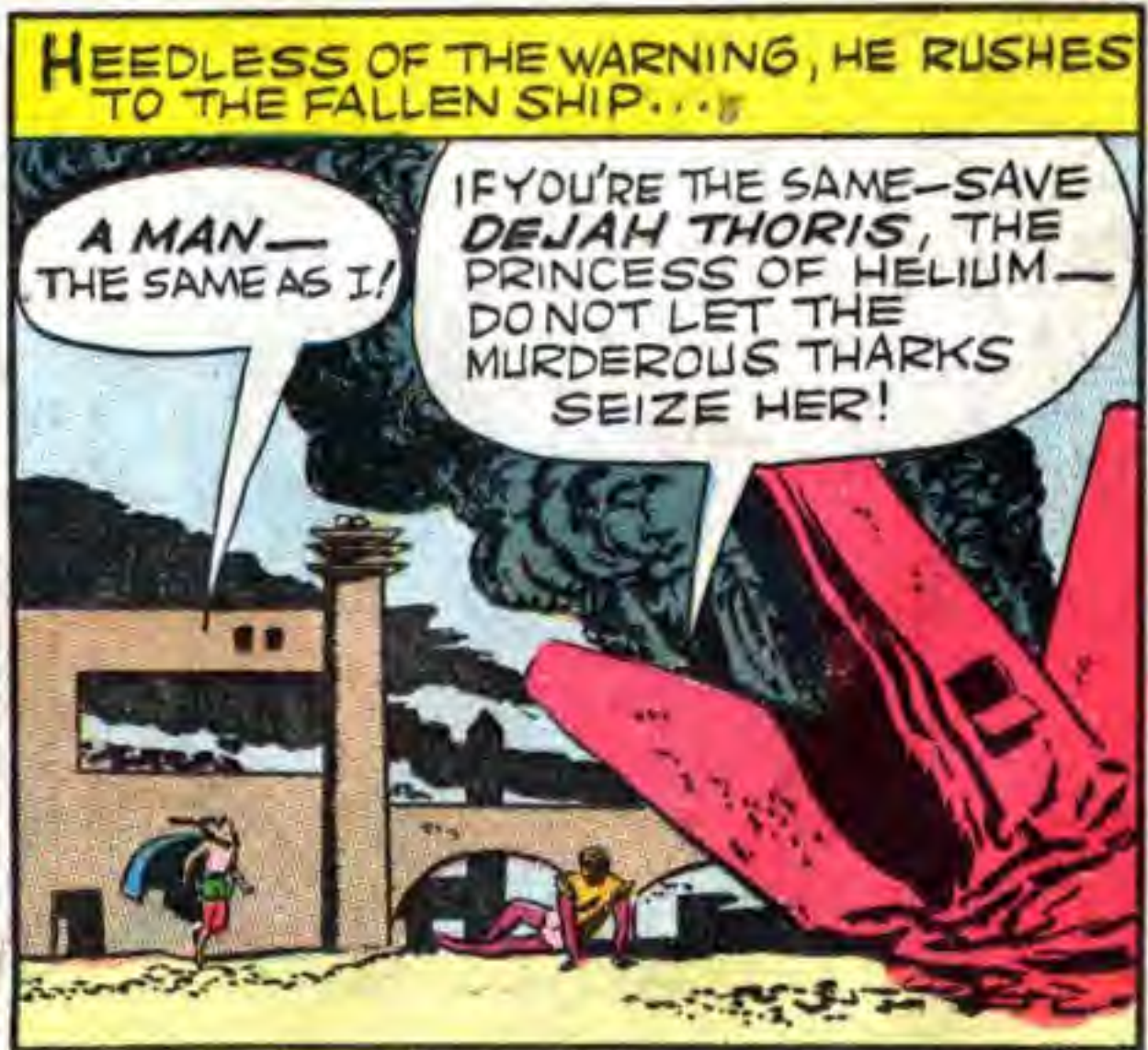
WHO ARE THEY? SOLA?

FAIR-SKINNED PEOPLE, ALMOST LIKE YOURSELF, BUT FOR A COPPER HUE! THEY LIVE IN REGIONS BEYOND! YOU WILL SOON SEE THEM — THE RADIUM BULLETS OF THE THARKS' GUNS WILL MAKE QUICK WORK OF THEM!



ONE SHIP IS FALLING! IF THEY ARE LIKE ME—I MUST SEE THEM!

WAIT! THE THARKS WILL RUSH TO LOOT THE CRAFT—DO NOT INTERFERE!



HEEDLESS OF THE WARNING, HE RUSHES TO THE FALLEN SHIP...

A MAN — THE SAME AS I!

IF YOU'RE THE SAME—SAVE DEJAH THORIS, THE PRINCESS OF HELIUM—DO NOT LET THE MURDEROUS THARKS SEIZE HER!



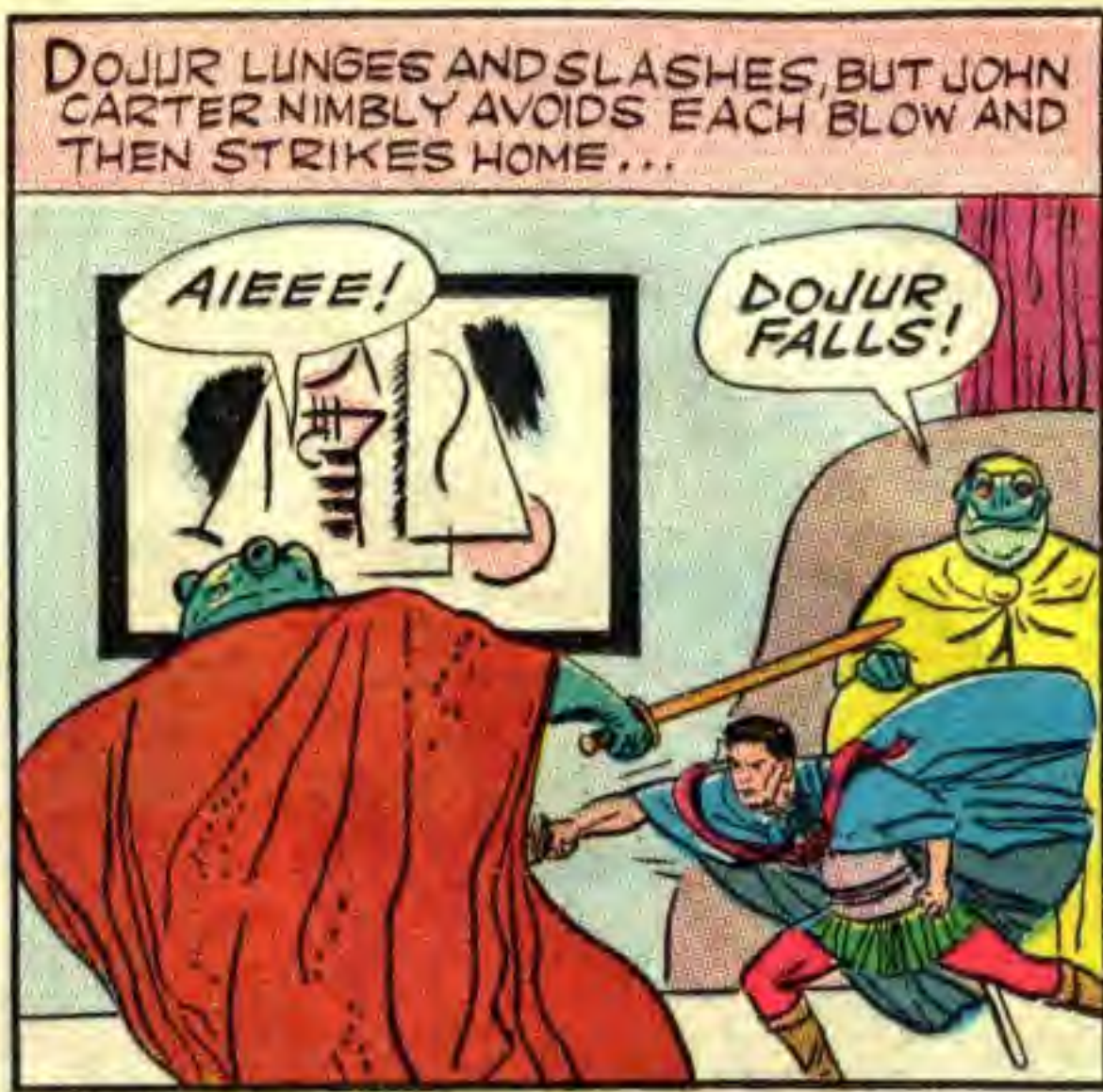






NONE DARES DOJUR'S SWORD! ITS POINT WILL SOON REDDEN YOUR PALE SKIN!

EVEN WITH SWORDS IN ALL FOUR OF YOUR ARMS, YOU COULDN'T MAKE GOOD THAT BOAST!



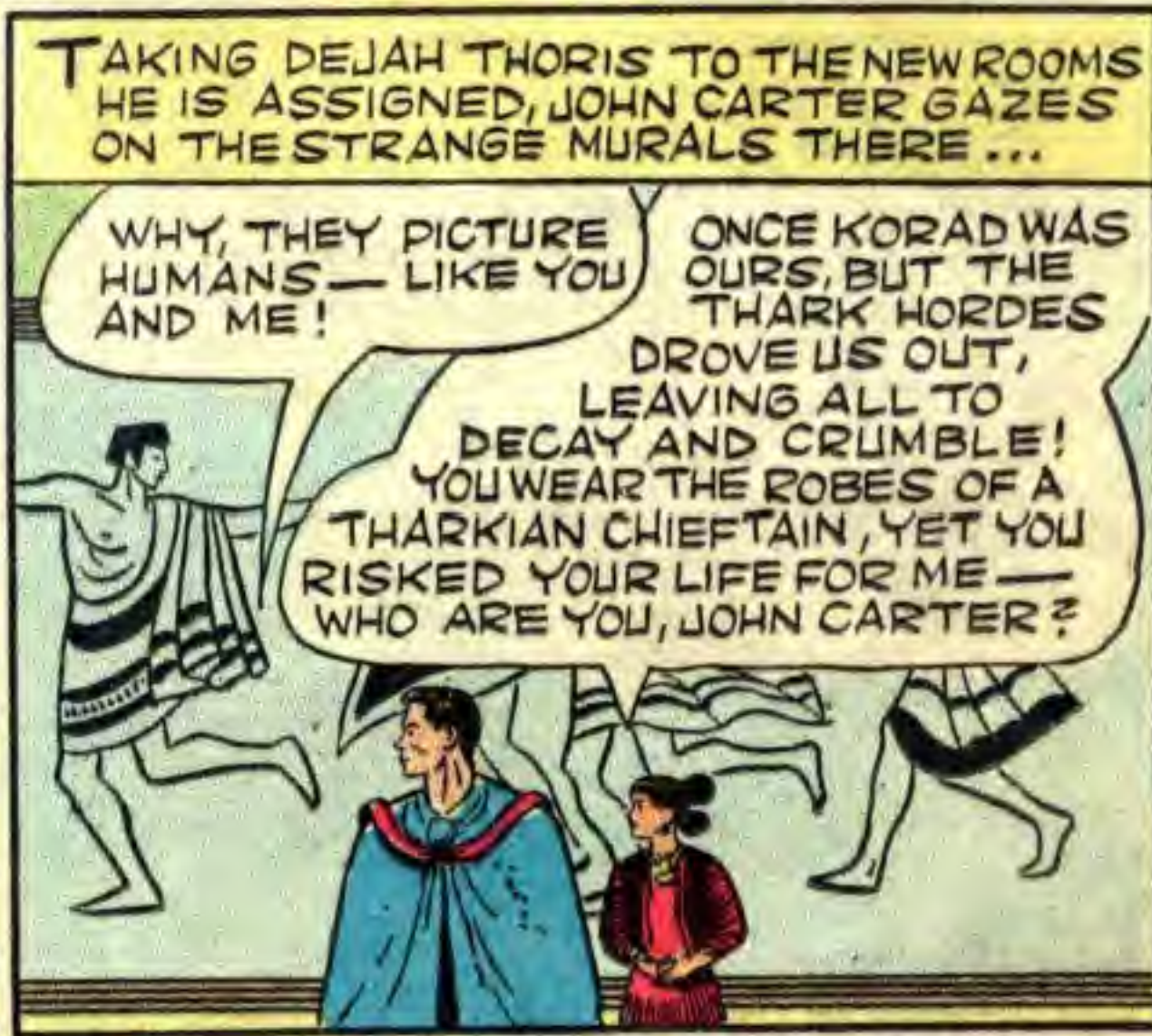
AIEEE!

DOJUR FALLS!



AND SO FALL ALL WHO TRY TO HARM DEJAH THORIS!

YOU HAVE FOUGHT WELL, JOHN CARTER! DOJUR'S RANK WAS ABOVE YOURS — YOU ADVANCE QUICKLY! YOUR REWARD IS DEJAH THORIS — SHE SHALL BE YOUR WARD TILL TAL HAJUS COMES FROM THE CAPITOL!



TAKING DEJAH THORIS TO THE NEW ROOMS HE IS ASSIGNED, JOHN CARTER GAZES ON THE STRANGE MURALS THERE ...

WHY, THEY PICTURE HUMANS — LIKE YOU AND ME!

ONCE KORAD WAS OURS, BUT THE THARK HORDES

DROVE US OUT, LEAVING ALL TO

DECAY AND CRUMBLE!

YOU WEAR THE ROBES OF A THARKIAN CHIEFTAIN, YET YOU RISKED YOUR LIFE FOR ME — WHO ARE YOU, JOHN CARTER?



DEJAH THORIS LISTENS, FASCINATED, HALF UNBELIEVING HIS STRANGE STORY ...

IF YOU ARE FROM ANOTHER WORLD, THEN YOU DO NOT KNOW OUR WAYS HERE! WHEN TAL HAJUS ARRIVES, ALL PRISONERS WILL BE PUT TO DEATH! EVEN PRIVILEGED ONES SUCH AS YOU!

THEN WE WON'T WAIT FOR TAL HAJUS'S ARRIVAL — WE'LL ESCAPE!



BUT SOON AFTER, TARS TARKUS ENTERS ...

TAL HAJUS'S MESSENGER HAS COME! THE SUPREME JED WILL ARRIVE LATE TONIGHT! HE WILL WISH TO SEE YOU BOTH! WE HAVE TAKEN MEASURES TO BE CERTAIN YOU WILL STILL BE HERE!

BUT IF WE ARE ABSENT, GIVE TAL HAJUS OUR SINCERE REGARDS!



QUICKLY, JOHN CARTER MAKES HIS PLANS...

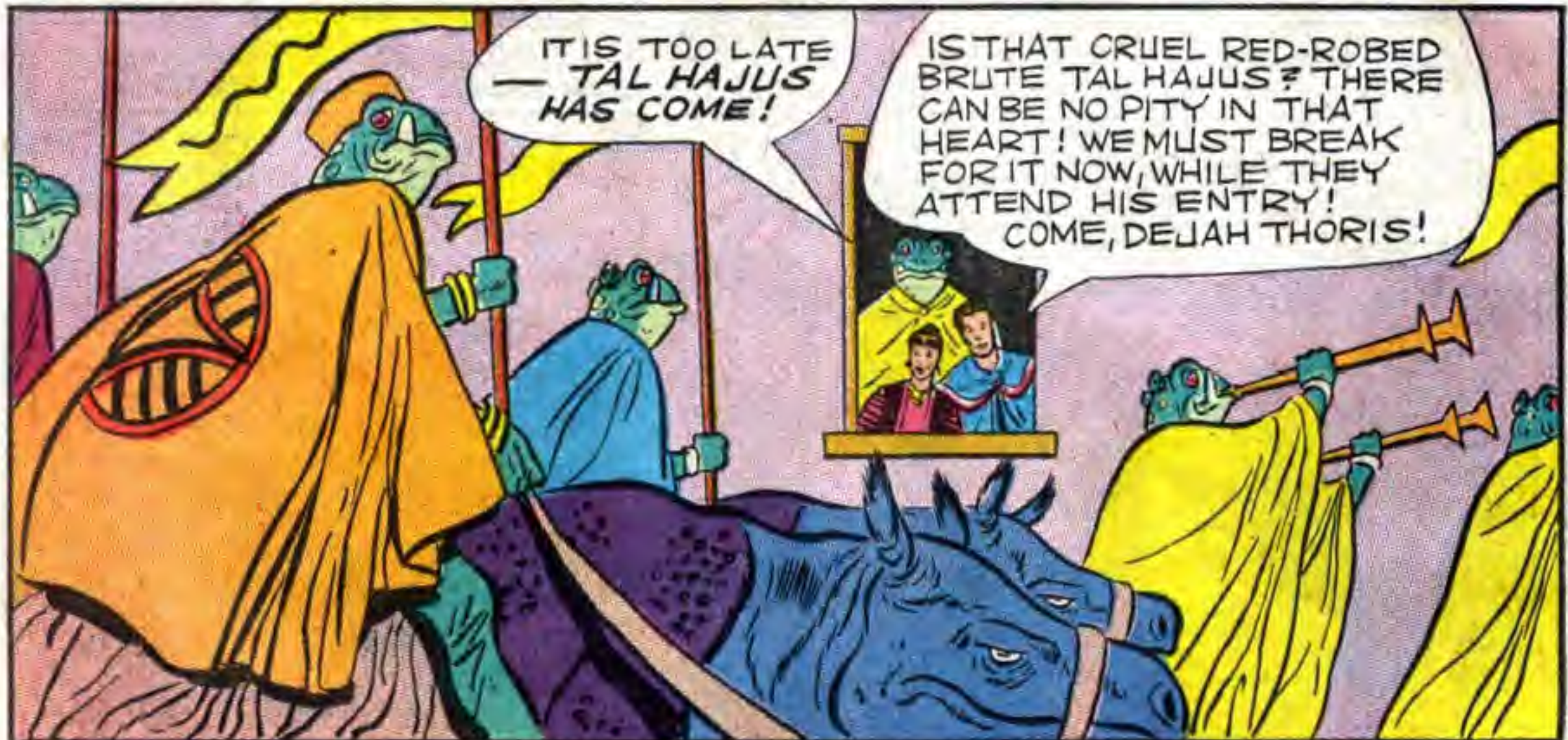
SOLA, YOU'RE THE ONLY THARK I CAN TRUST! WE MUST ESCAPE! TAL HAJUS ARRIVES LATE THIS NIGHT! WHEN IT'S DARK, LEAVE A THOAT-HORSE BEHIND THE HOUSE — DEJAH THORIS AND I SHALL RIDE AWAY ON IT!

YOUR CHANCES ARE BETTER ALONE!

I WILL NOT LEAVE ALONE! TAL HAJUS SHALL NOT DERIVE HIS PERVERTED PLEASURE AT DEJAH THORIS'S DEATH AGONIES!

CHIEFTAIN, IF YOU COMMAND, I GO WITH YOU! BUT I SHOULD BE HAPPY, KNOWING THAT YOU ALONE WERE SAFE!

THE THOAT SHALL BE WAITING — BUT I HEAR HORNS IN THE STREET —





AS DEJAH THORIS IS TAKEN AWAY, JOHN CARTER'S FURY GROWS...

THEY'VE CARRIED HER TO THE PALACE! I'LL RESCUE HER EVEN FROM THERE! SOLA, HAVE A SWIFT THOAT BY THE GATE — I'LL RIDE OFF WITH DEJAH THORIS, OR NEVER SEE THE DAWN!

THE PALACE IS WELL GUARDED! YOU CANNOT STEAL HER OUT OF TAL HAJUS'S ROOMS!



LOOK! EVEN FAITHFUL WOOLA TRIES TO BAR YOUR RECKLESS WAY!

WOE TO ANY WHO BAR MY WAY! BY THE GATE, SOLA!



ONLY THE GREAT CHAMBER OF THE PALACE SHOWS A LIGHT! I CAN'T GO IN THE FRONT WAY, BUT A GOOD LEAP SHOULD CARRY ME TO THE WINDOW LEDGE!



MADE IT!



HAS OUR JED, TAL HAJUS, MADE HIS DECISION ON THE FATE OF DEJAH THORIS AND JOHN CARTER?

THE VOICE OF TARS TARKAS!



YES! THEY DIE IN THE ARENA! WILD THOATS SHALL ATTACK THEM, PROVIDING US WITH PLEASANT SPORT! NOW I WISH TO SPEAK TO DEJAH THORIS!











JUST ONE GOOD STROKE BEFORE YOU FIRE AGAIN!

AIEEEE!



QUICKLY! THE SHOT MAY HAVE BEEN HEARD AND WILL BRING THE WARRIORS FROM BELOW!



THE GUARDS HAVE COME!

SOLA AND A THOAT ARE BY THE GATE! THIS WAY!



RACING ALONG THE HIGH PALACE LEDGE, JOHN CARTER HEADS TOWARD THE GATE AND THEN LEAPS ...

HOLD ONTO ME! DO NOT FEAR!

WITH YOU, MY CHIEFTAIN, I KNOW NO FEAR!

LANDING ASTRIDE THE WAITING THOAT, THEY START FORWARD...



THANKS, SOLA! IF WE NEVER MEET AGAIN, I SHALL ALWAYS KNOW THAT ONE THARK, AT LEAST, HAD A HEART THAT COULD FEEL PITY!

QUICKLY! AWAY! TARS TARKAS IS AT THE GATE AND THE WARRIORS ARE CLOSING IN!





WHO DARES FIGHT TAL  
HAJUS'S CONQUEROR?  
OUT OF MY WAY!

THE GATE  
— IT'S  
COMING  
DOWN!



TARS TARKAS,  
LOWER THE GATE  
QUICKLY! STOP  
THEM!

BUT IN THE FLEETING SECOND THE  
DESCENDING GATE STOPS ITS DOWN-  
WARD COURSE, JOHN CARTER RACES  
THROUGH...

WE ARE OUT! THE  
GATE IS DOWN!  
THE GUARDS  
LOCKED BEHIND  
IT WILL BE  
DELAYED!

BUT I CAN'T  
UNDERSTAND IT!  
TARS TARKAS  
**DELIBERATELY**  
HELD THE GATE UP  
TILL WE WERE CLEAR!



SOLA'S SYMPATHY AND PITY  
ARE UNIQUE AMONG THE WARRING  
THARKS— BUT TARS TARKAS IS  
HER **FATHER!** ... WHEN TAL  
HAJUS RECOVERS, THEY WILL  
PURSUE US! WHITHER SHALL  
WE FLEE?

YOU SAID YOUR  
EXPEDITION LEFT A  
BROKEN SHIP ON THE  
PLAINS— MAYBE WE  
CAN REPAIR IT!



BUT DAWN REVEALS A TERRIBLE SIGHT...

THE SHIP—  
IT'S **SMASHED  
AND BROKEN!**

THE THARKS  
HAVE LOOTED  
ALL ITS PARTS!



**WOOLA!** MY  
GUARDIAN  
WATCHDOG!  
HE HAS COME  
TO HELP ME!

WITH YOU AND  
WOOLA, I FEEL  
SAFE! TURN  
NORTH, TOWARD  
MY PEOPLE!  
ONCE WE REACH  
HELIUM, ALL DANGER  
IS PASSED!





THE WAY TO HELIUM IS NOT SO EASILY GAINED! THARK WARRIORS HAVE SEEN US!

THEY ARE NOT THARKS! THEY ARE FROM THE CRUEL KINGDOM OF WARHOON! THERE, EVEN MORE VIOLENT DEATH AND DAILY BATTLE MARK THE BRUTAL PASSIONS OF THEIR WARRING LIVES!



THEN SWIFTLY AWAY, DEJAH THORIS! I'LL FIGHT A DELAYING ACTION TILL YOU CAN START FOR HELIUM!

I CANNOT LEAVE MY CHIEFTAIN HERE ALONE! IF YOU DO NOT COME, DEJAH THORIS REMAINS, TOO!



THE THOAT CARRYING OUR DOUBLE LOAD COULD NOT OUTDISTANCE THEM! I KNOW WHERE HELIUM LIES! I'LL FOLLOW! GO AT ONCE OR MY FIGHT HERE WILL BE IN VAIN!

ONLY BECAUSE YOU ORDER ME, JOHN CARTER, DO I LEAVE!



GO WITH HER, WOOLA! GUARD HER WELL!

FOLLOW ME SOON, JOHN CARTER! YOUR MIGHTY ARM WILL FIND VICTORY, BUT I SHALL NOT REST TILL WE MEET AGAIN!



AS THE PRINCESS RACES NORTHWARD, JOHN CARTER STANDS ALONE ON AN ALIEN PLANET, FACING THE ONRUSHING WARRIORS...

HE MUST BE FROM HELIUM! WHO WILL CLAIM THIS PITIABLE PRIZE?

HE SHALL BE MINE!

I AM NOT FROM HELIUM, NOR WILL ANY OF YOU FIND ME HIS PRIZE!





WITH A SUDDEN LEAP, JOHN CARTER SPRINGS UPON THE FOREMOST ATTACKER!

DOWN!

HE HAS JUMPED—  
AIEE!



SEIZE HIM  
BEFORE HE—  
UH!

YOU'LL ADD NO  
MORE SKULLS TO  
THAT VILE NECK-  
LACE OF YOURS!



BUT AS HE LANDS...

I'M SLIPPING  
— I'M LOSING  
MY BALANCE!



AT HIM—  
HE IS DOWN!

HE SHALL NOT  
ESCAPE US NOW!



HOURS LATER, JOHN CARTER  
RECOVERS...

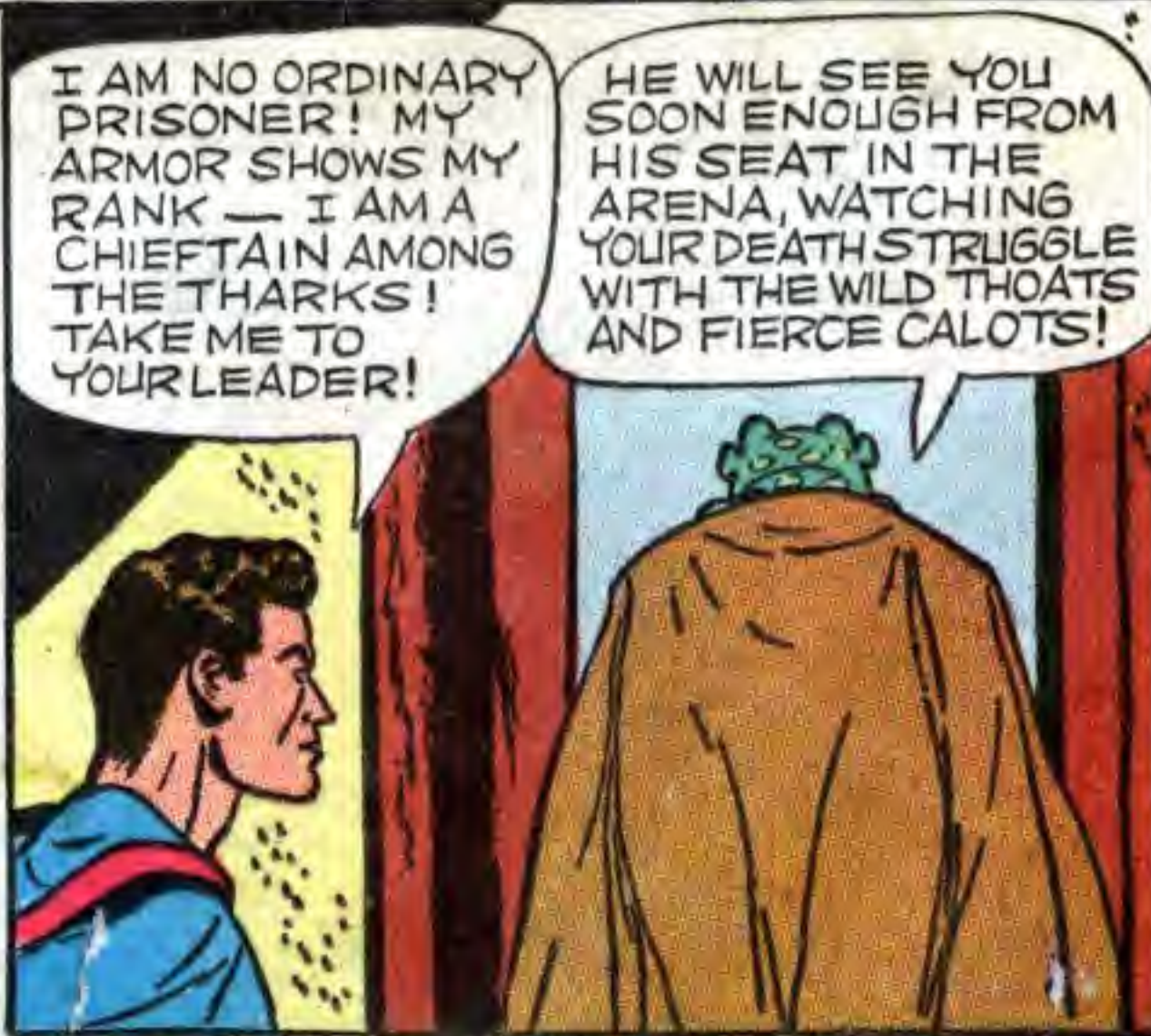
MY HEAD—  
STILL HURTS!  
WHERE AM I?  
— I'M CHAINED!

YOU ARE CHAINED  
IN WARHOON AND  
SOON YOU SHALL  
BE **BURIED** IN  
WARHOON!



I AM NO ORDINARY  
PRISONER! MY  
ARMOR SHOWS MY  
RANK — I AM A  
CHIEFTAIN AMONG  
THE THARKS!  
TAKE ME TO  
YOUR LEADER!

HE WILL SEE YOU  
SOON ENOUGH FROM  
HIS SEAT IN THE  
ARENA, WATCHING  
YOUR DEATH STRUGGLE  
WITH THE WILD THOATS  
AND FIERCE CALOTS!







ANOTHER MAN FROM HELIUM! I AM KANTOS KAN, CHIEF NAVAL OFFICER OF THE JEDDEK, CAPTURED WHEN MY DISABLED CRAFT FELL NEAR WARHOON! BUT YOUR FACE IS NOT KNOWN TO ME!

I AM JOHN CARTER! I WAS TAKEN WHILE GIVING DEJAH THORIS, YOUR PRINCESS, TIME TO ESCAPE!



QUICKLY, JOHN CARTER TELLS HIS STRANGE ADVENTURE...

I KNOW THE PLACE WHERE DEJAH THORIS HEADED! SHE MAY WELL BE SAFE BY NOW! IT IS GOOD TO DIE KNOWING OUR PRINCESS HAS NOT FALLEN INTO THE HANDS OF THE WARHOONS!

WHY ARE YOU SO RESIGNED TO DEATH? THERE MUST BE A WAY TO ESCAPE!



THESE DUNGEONS LEAD TO THE ARENA — THE ARENA TO CERTAIN DEATH! THERE IS NO WAY OUT! LOOK! THEY HAVE COME FOR US!

KANTOS KAN, IF I AM EVER TO FIND HELIUM AND DEJAH THORIS, I'LL NEED YOUR HELP! WE WILL FIND A WAY TO ESCAPE!



SWIFTLY, THE PRISONERS ARE HERDED TOWARD THE ARENA, HANDED A SWORD AND SENT FORWARD, AS THE CAGES OF THE WILD ANIMALS ARE OPENED...

SEND IN THE PRISONERS! LET THEM FIGHT THE STARVED CALOTS AND THOATS TILL BUT TWO PRISONERS ARE LEFT! THEN THEY SHALL BATTLE TO DEATH! THE VICTOR ALONE SHALL WIN HIS FREEDOM — IF HE SURVIVES!

NOW YOU KNOW THE PERVERSE SPORT OF THE WARHOONS — ONLY ONE OF US CAN LIVE, AT BEST!

BUT FIRST WE MUST SURVIVE THE BATTLE WITH THE BEASTS!





SUDDENLY, THE TWO FORCES MEET...

STAND CLOSE TO ME! TOGETHER, WE'LL FIGHT OFF THESE BEASTS!

BUT EVEN IF WE BEAT THEM BACK — ONE OF US MUST KILL THE OTHER!



THROUGH THE LONG HOURS, THE SWORDSMEN HACK AT THE PREYING MONSTERS TILL ALL OTHER PRISONERS AROUND THEM FALL BENEATH THE SAVAGE FURY OF THE CREATURES...



THEN THE RULER OF WARHOON RISES...

NOW BUT TWO REMAIN! WARHOON REWARDS GOOD FIGHTERS — DEATH TO THE WEAKER, FREEDOM TO THE VICTOR — **DUEL!**



YOU HAVE SAVED OUR PRINCESS, JOHN CARTER! NOW LET ME SAVE YOU — STRIKE FOR MY HEART AND YOUR FREEDOM!

WAIT! THE SUN SINKS! THE LIGHT IS BAD! LET MY SWORD SLIDE UNDER YOUR ARM WHEN I THRUST, AND FALL TO THE GROUND AS IF DEAD!



AS THE SHADOWS LENGTHEN, JOHN CARTER LUNGES...

**AIIEEE!**

NOW LIE STILL — WHEN IT IS DARK, CRAWL OFF AND MEET ME IN THE HILLS TO THE NORTH!



AS KANTOS KAN FALLS TO THE GROUND, JOHN CARTER SALUTES THE RULER...

NO ONE STIRS IN THE ARENA, BUT I!

YOU HAVE BRAVELY WON YOUR FREEDOM! WARHOON RESPECTS THE BATTLE-PROVEN! GO!





**STRIKING NORTHWARD FROM THE WAR-  
CRAZED CITY, JOHN CARTER HEADS FOR  
THE HILLS, AS NIGHT COMES...**

IT'S BEEN FIVE HOURS...  
BUT KANTOS KAN HASN'T COME  
YET! I CAN SEE ACROSS ALL  
THE HILLS FROM HERE! I'LL  
SIT DOWN AND WAIT!



THIS STONE—  
IT'S MOVING!



A SNAKE!



MY SWORD THRUST HAD  
BETTER BEAT THOSE  
FANGS TO THEIR MARK!



**B**UT AS THE SNAKE STRIKES, IT  
BRUSHES ASIDE THE PROTECTING  
SWORD...



**A**ND RAPIDLY ENMESHERS JOHN  
CARTER IN ITS COILS!

UGH—CAN'T BREATHE  
—MUCH LONGER!





**B**UT AS THE DEADLY FANGS DRAW NEAR, SUDDENLY THE COILED MONSTER'S HEAD SNAPS BACK...

IT'S LETTING GO!



WOOLA!



FAITHFUL WOOLA! YOU'VE FOUND ME, BUT WHERE IS DEJAH THORIS? I CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER FOR KANTOS KAN... LEAD THE WAY, WOOLA!



**F**OLLOWING WOOLA, JOHN CARTER COMES UPON A STRANGE BUILDING RISING FROM THE DESERTED PLAINS...

IT MUST HAVE BEEN MADE BY SOME MARTIAN, BUT I'VE SEARCHED ALL AROUND — THERE'S NO DOOR OR WINDOW!



**E**XAMINING THE BUILDING'S SURFACE, HE FINDS A SMALL HOLE...

HELLO IN THERE! OPEN UP! I'M JOHN CARTER, HEADING TOWARD HELIUM! IS ANY ONE INSIDE?



THAT WHOLE CENTRAL WALL SECTION IS ROLLING BACK!





AS THE GIANT DOOR SWINGS BACK...

I HAVE COME IN SEARCH OF THE PRINCESS DEJAH THORIS OF HELIUM! MY JOURNEY LED ME HERE, BUT WHERE AM I?

IN THE ATMOSPHERE FACTORY AND I AM KEEPER OF THE RADIUM PUMPS! PERHAPS IN MY OLD AGE I'VE GROWN FOOLISH — FOR NO STRANGER WAS EVER ALLOWED IN HERE!



THE ATMOSPHERE FACTORY?

YES! FROM HERE THE MARSH GAS AND ETHER ARE REFINED AND PUMPED INTO THE FIVE AIR CENTERS OF MARS! THE FACTORY IS UNASSAILABLE — THE DOOR IS FIFTY FEET THICK! THESE KEYS CONTROL THE PUMPS AND MY LIFE IS DEDICATED TO PROTECTING THEM!



AND THE KEY OPENS THE VAULT DOOR OF THIS BUILDING?

NO! THE DOOR IS OPENED BY A SECRET TELEPATHIC NUMBER COMBINATION, KNOWN BUT TO ME AND MY ASSISTANT WHO RELIEVES ME YEARLY! I'VE GROWN LONELY AND LET YOU IN — YOU MUST DEPART SOON!



A STRANGE SENSATION FILLS JOHN CARTER'S HEAD...

HE'S NOT TALKING TO ME, AT ALL — I'M READING HIS THOUGHTS... AND RIGHT NOW, HE IS THINKING OF THE DOOR'S OPENING COMBINATION — IF I REMEMBER IT, I, TOO, CAN OPEN IT!



AFTER EATING, JOHN IS LED TO A SMALL ROOM...

TO REACH HELIUM, YOU MUST PASS THROUGH THE CITY OF ZODANGA! DO NOT LET THEM KNOW YOU GO TO HELIUM — THEY ARE AT WAR! NOW SLEEP WELL!

"SLEEP WELL" — THAT'S A GRIM JOKE! IF I CAN REALLY READ HIS MIND, I GET THE PICTURE OF HIM CREEPING TO MY BED WITH A DAGGER IN HIS HAND!



LATER...

THERE'S A NOISE OUTSIDE — THE KEEPER'S TRYING TO SNEAK IN ON ME!





**S**TANDING IN THE DEEP SHADOWS BY THE DOOR, JOHN CARTER SEES IT SLOWLY OPEN...

HE IS THINKING HE NEVER SHOULD HAVE LET AN OUTSIDER IN— AND IF I LIVE, WORD MAY REACH THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF HIS MISDEED— BUT I MUST NOT HURT HIM— WITHOUT HIM THE ATMOSPHERE FACTORY WOULD FAIL AND DOOM ALL MARS! I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN TO DEJAH THORIS!



**A**S THE KEEPER PASSES HIM, JOHN BREAKS FOR THE CORRIDOR...

BEFORE HE FINDS MY BED'S EMPTY, I'VE GOT TO ESCAPE— THERE'S THE DOOR AHEAD! I HOPE I CAN REMEMBER THE TELEPATHIC COMBINATION!



**C**LOSING HIS EYES IN DEEP THOUGHT, JOHN CARTER RECALLS THE SECRET NUMBERS THE KEEPER THOUGHT OF AND SLOWLY THE GIANT DOOR SLIDES BACK...

IT WORKED!



SAFE! NOW TO HEAD FOR HELIUM— BUT I MUST PASS THROUGH ZODANGA FIRST!



**F**OR TWO DAYS JOHN CARTER PUSHES NORTH, FINALLY ARRIVING AT ZODANGA...

THE CITY AND PEOPLE LOOK CIVILIZED! BUT WHY ARE THEY STARING AT ME?— NO, IT'S WOOLA! THEY KNOW HE COMES FROM THE REALM OF THE THARKS! I'LL HAVE TO SEND HIM BACK— HE MAKES ME TOO CONSPICUOUS!





WOOLA, I MUST SEND YOU BACK!  
I MUST FIND DEJAH THORIS AND  
I MAY LEARN SOMETHING OF HER  
HERE — BUT WITH YOU AT MY SIDE,  
I'LL AROUSE TOO MUCH SUSPICION!



ADVANCING THROUGH THE PLAZA, JOHN  
CARTER SUDDENLY HALTS...

KANTOS KAN!  
YOU'RE SAFE! BUT  
WHY THE STRANGE  
UNIFORM?

QUIET! FOLLOW  
ME IN SILENCE!



WHY THE  
MYSTERY?

MY NAME AND CITY ARE  
NOT KNOWN HERE! THEY  
ARE AT WAR WITH HELIUM  
AND WOULD MAKE A SWIFT  
END OF ME! I WAS DELAYED  
IN LEAVING THE ARENA,  
AS THE GUARDS CLEARED  
THE STADIUM! WHEN I  
REACHED THE HILLS, YOU  
WERE GONE!



MY CALOT MET  
ME THERE! IT  
HAD BEEN WITH  
DEJAH THORIS,  
SO SHE MUST  
BE SAFE!

SHE IS WELL, BUT  
NOT SAFE! SAB  
THAN, PRINCE OF  
ZODANGA, HOLDS  
HER PRISONER!  
HE FOUND HER  
ON THE DESERT,  
TOOK HER HERE AND  
HAS FALLEN IN LOVE  
WITH HER!



BUT SHE CAN'T  
BE IN LOVE  
WITH HIM!

THAN KOSIS, JEDDAK  
OF ZODANGA, HAS  
MADE HER MARRIAGE  
TO HIS SON THE PRICE  
OF PEACE WITH HELIUM  
— SHE MAY BE FORCED  
TO CONSENT! I HAVE  
JOINED THEIR NAVY AS AN  
AIR SCOUT, HOPING TO FIND  
AND RESCUE HER — NOW YOU  
SHALL AID ME!



KANTOS KAN,  
WE MUST WORK  
FAST! ALTHOUGH  
YOU'VE SHOWN  
ME HOW TO WORK  
THE RADIUM  
ENGINE, THEY  
MAY DISCOVER  
YOU TOOK THE  
EXAM FOR ME!

ZODANGA NEEDS  
FLIERS FOR THE  
WAR! BY THE TIME  
THEY PROCESS  
THE PAPERS AND  
FIND OUT THE  
TRICK, I HOPE WE  
WILL HAVE ESCAPED  
WITH DEJAH  
THORIS! NOW TAKE  
OFF ON YOUR  
PATROL!

LATER...





FLYING HIS FLEET AIRCRAFT ON HIS  
PATROL SECTOR, JOHN CARTER  
SUDDENLY SEES FIGHTING BELOW...

TWO GREEN  
WARSOONIANS!  
THEY'LL MAKE QUICK  
WORK OF THAT MAN,  
UNLESS I JOIN THE  
FIGHT!



THAT TAKES CARE  
OF ONE— BUT MY  
SHIP IS OUT OF  
CONTROL!



I'VE GOT TO  
NOSE HER UP!



MADE IT— BUT  
THAT FELLOW'S  
IN TROUBLE!



HO! YOU FOUR-ARMED  
WARSOONIAN, HERE'S  
YOUR MATCH! I DARE  
YOU TURN ON ME!



BUT AS JOHN CARTER LEAPS FORWARD  
TO BATTLE, THE WARRIOR'S SWORD  
STARTS DOWN...

TOO LATE!





**BUT JOHN CARTER'S HAND STRIKES THE DESCENDING SWORD AND HE THRUSTS HIS OWN BLADE FORWARD...**



YOU HAVE DONE WELL THIS DAY! YOUR WORK WILL NOT GO UNREWARDED! YOU HAVE SAVED A ROYAL PRINCE! SAB THAN IS GRATEFUL!

**SAB THAN!**  
I AM DEEPLY HONORED! LET ME TAKE YOU BACK TO ZODANGA!



**RETURNING TO ZODANGA, JOHN CARTER IS LED TO THE ROYAL CHAMBERS AND STANDS BEFORE THAN KOSIS...**

MY SON HAS TOLD ME OF YOUR DEED IN VANQUISHING, SINGLEHANDED, TWO GREEN WARRIORS! JOHN CARTER, IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR VALOR, I AM MAKING YOU MY PERSONAL GUARD!

I AM HONORED, JEDDAK!

NOW TAKE YOUR PLACE BEHIND THE CURTAINS, FROM WHERE YOU MAY WATCH THE ROOM, UNSEEN!



THE PRINCESS FROM HELIUM WEAKENS — SHE HAS ASKED FOR AN AUDIENCE! SHE KNOWS OUR FORCES HAVE HER FATHER'S ON THE RUN! AND IF SHE WOULD END THE SLAUGHTER —

— SHE MUST CONSENT TO MARRY ME!



**CAUTIOUSLY, JOHN PEERS OUT FROM HIS POST...**

**DEJAH THORIS!** — IF SHE IS COMING TO GIVE SAB THAN HER CONSENT, I HAVEN'T MUCH TIME LEFT! I MUST FIND OUT WHERE SHE IS KEPT PRISONER!





WHEN THE INTERVIEW ENDS, JOHN CARTER FOLLOWS...

SHE HAS CONSENTED TO MARRY SAB THAN IN EXCHANGE FOR LASTING PEACE BETWEEN THE TWO KINGDOMS! BUT THAT'S TOO MUCH FOR DEJAH THORIS TO BE FORCED TO PAY!

HALT!



I AM FROM THAN KOSIS! GUARD AND WISH TO SPEAK WITH PRINCESS DEJAH THORIS! STAND ASIDE!

NO ONE COMES FROM THAN KOSIS WITHOUT CARRYING A WRITTEN ORDER OR GIVING US THE PASSWORD — GIVE ME ONE OR THE OTHER!



THE ONLY ORDER I REQUIRE HANGS AT MY SIDE! NOW LET ME PASS!

YOU ARE NOT HERE BY THAN KOSIS' ORDER! — SEIZE HIM!



DROP YOUR SWORD! YOU CANNOT —

YOUR SPEAR, FELL FIRST!



NIMBLY, JOHN CARTER LEAPS FROM THE BEATEN GUARD TO THE ATTACKING SPEARMAN...

NOW WHO BARS MY WAY?



QUICKLY! RUN FOR HELP!

DEJAH THORIS!

JOHN CARTER! YOU ARE ALIVE!





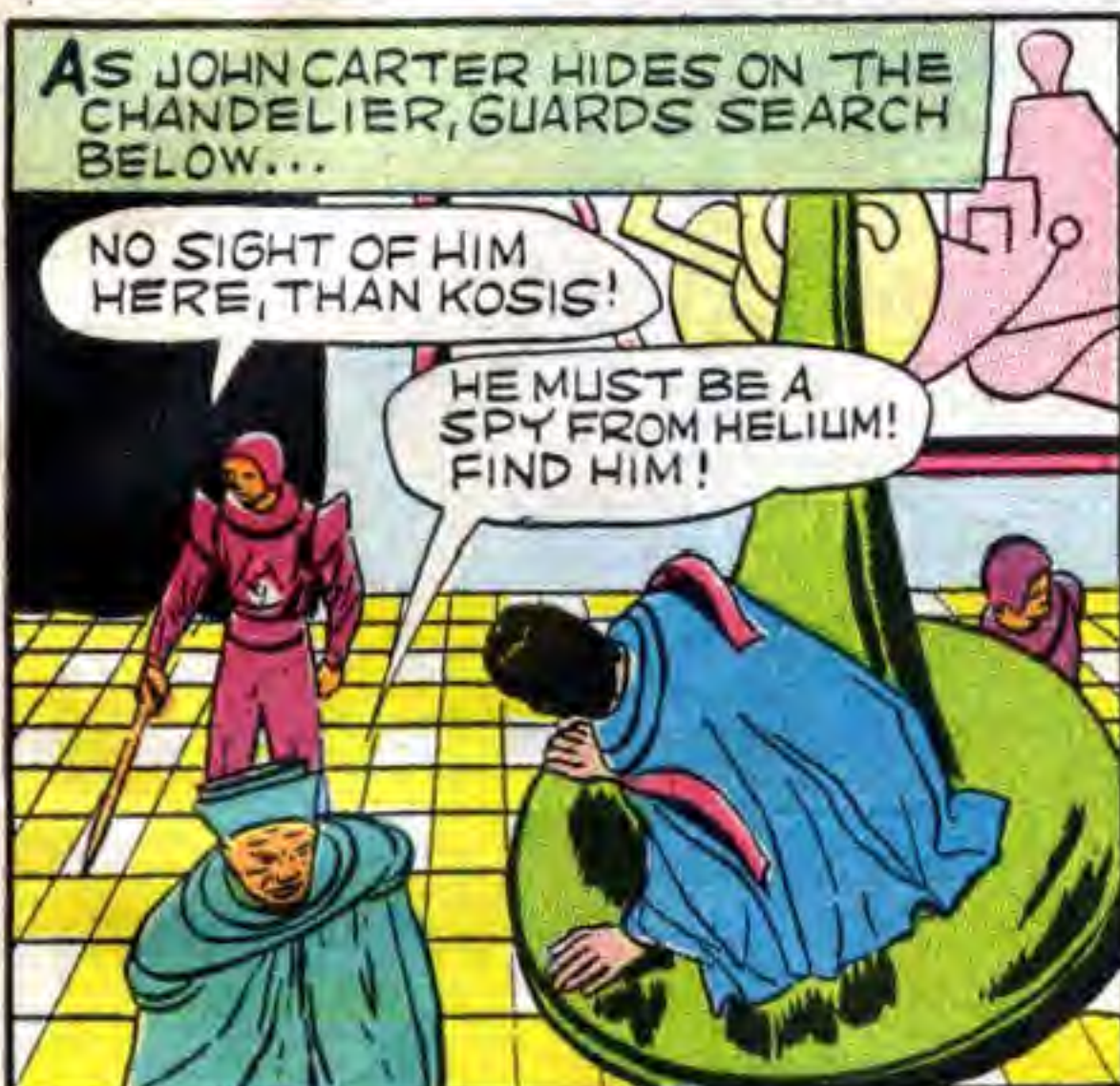


VERY MUCH ALIVE, MY PRINCESS! BUT I LEARNED YOU HAVE PLEDGED YOUR HAND TO SAB THAN! IF YOU REALLY WISH TO MARRY HIM...

I CONSENTED AS I THOUGHT THE ONLY ONE I LOVED WAS DEAD! BUT **YOU** ARE ALIVE — I CANNOT MARRY SAB THAN NOW — HIDE! SOMEONE COMES!



THEY WON'T BE LOOKING FOR ME UP HERE! RETURN TO YOUR ROOM — I'LL FIND A WAY TO PREVENT YOUR MARRIAGE!



AS JOHN CARTER HIDES ON THE CHANDELIER, GUARDS SEARCH BELOW...

NO SIGHT OF HIM HERE, THAN KOSIS!

HE MUST BE A SPY FROM HELIUM! FIND HIM!



HE WON'T ESCAPE FROM THE PALACE! ALL EXITS ARE GUARDED! WE'LL CAPTURE HIM SOON!

I WON'T FEEL SAFE TILL SAB THAN MARRIES DEJAH THORIS — AND THAT SHALL BE **THIS VERY NIGHT!**



LATER... JOHN CARTER, LEAPING FROM ROOF TOP TO ROOF TOP, MAKES GOOD HIS ESCAPE...

IT'S GROWING DARK! I MUST REACH KANTOS KAN UNSEEN! WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME!



JOHN CARTER! WHEN I LEFT MY AIRCRAFT, WORD HAD COME THAT YOU WERE A SUSPECTED SPY AND THEY WERE SEARCHING FOR YOU!

THEY HAVEN'T CAUGHT ME YET, KANTOS KAN! I'VE FOUND DEJAH THORIS! WE MUST STEAL AN AIRCRAFT AND RESCUE HER **TONIGHT!**















# Creatures of Mars



*Thark*  
OR  
WARHOONIAN  
THE FIERCE  
GREEN MEN  
OF MARS



*Calot*  
THE WATCHDOG  
OF THE THARKS

*Thoat*

THE CAVALRY HORSE  
OF THE WARHOONIANS

